

carrier has a particle diameter of 0.5 to 15.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , a pore diameter of 50 to 500 nm and a pore volume of 200 to 5000  $\text{mm}^3/\text{g}$ .

3. A method according to Claim 2 wherein the particulate carrier containing silica or its derivative is a magnetic particulate carrier.

4. A method according to Claim 3 wherein the magnetic particulate carrier contains a superparamagnetic metal oxide.

5. A method according to Claim 4 wherein the particulate carrier contains, as a superparamagnetic metal oxide, 10 to 60 wt.% of an iron oxide relative to the total weight of the particulate carrier.

6. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the particulate carrier has an outer surface area of at least 5 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

7. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the particulate carrier has a specific surface area of 5 to 800 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

(a) mixing the material containing nucleic acids, a nucleic acid-binding particulate carrier having a particle diameter of 0.5 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ , a pore diameter of 50 to 500 nm and a pore volume of 200 to 5000  $\text{mm}^3/\text{g}$ , and a nucleic acid extraction solution for allowing the nucleic acids to adsorb to the particulate carrier, to thereby bind the nucleic acids to the particulate carrier;

(b) separating a composite of the nucleic acids and the particulate carrier from the mixture obtained in Step (a) to remove contaminants; and

15 (c) eluting and collecting the nucleic acids from the  
composite of the nucleic acids and the particulate  
carrier.

9. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the nucleic acids are DNA and/or RNA.

10. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the material containing nucleic acids is a biological material.

11. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the biological material is a material selected from the group consisting of animal-derived blood, urine, saliva, other body fluids; plant-derived biological materials;

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16. A method according to Claim 15 wherein the first washing solution contains as a chaotropic substance at least one compound selected from the group consisting of guanidine thiocyanate, guanidine hydrochloride and sodium thiocyanate.

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23. A kit for extracting nucleic acids,  
comprising a nucleic acid-binding particulate carrier  
having a particle diameter of 0.5 to 15.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , a pore  
25 diameter of 50 to 500 nm and a pore volume of 20 to 5000

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# Dedication